M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 65

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

K.K.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1261 Press ~~Mis.~~

~~123-27.~~

Dated 8. 5. 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1871.

Read the following papers :—

No. 123. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 30th January 1871, No. 2,795.

I HAVE the honour to report upon the Subsidiary Jail and out-houses at Nangunery, 1st Range, Tinnevelly, carried into execution under the supervision of Mr. Sub-Engineer Colquhoun.

2. This work, estimated at Rupees 4,420, and sanctioned in G. O., No. 3,754, of 2nd December 1868, was completed in 1869 at a cost of Rupees 4,485-4-1.

3. Advances for beams and doors were made by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay, then in charge of 5th Range; but when the work was handed over to Mr. Colquhoun, in January 1869, on the amalgamation of the 1st and 5th Ranges, no actual work had been commenced.

4. On the 20th September 1869, in letter No. 233, to the Collector, Mr. Stuart, the Sub-Collector, brings to notice the inferior nature of the beams, which he describes as of white jungle-wood, and already perforated by the attacks of some kind of insect. He suggests that the Contractor should be made to replace them with some durable kind of timber. Mr. Stuart also complains of the inferiority of the wood-work of the doors, and describes the workmanship as very bad.

Docket No. 2,596 of 24th September 1869.

5. This letter is sent to Mr. Colquhoun by the Superintending Engineer for explanation.

6. Mr. Colquhoun replies in letter No. 215 of 2nd October 1869. He states that the beams (except 20 feet of Vengay) were procured by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay; that they are a species of "congoo," and when brought to site were quite free from insects, but since they were wrought and put up insects attacked them, and that an application of tar had caused the insects to disappear. He admits that the doors are of "very inferior workmanship" and had warped much, but throws the blame on Supervisor Muniappah Pillay, who, he states, paid away the entire amount for them to a "wretched carpenter" before the articles had been completed and delivered.

7. The Superintending Engineer in memorandum No. 1,642, of the 14th October 1869, calls for further information from Mr. Colquhoun, and addresses the Collector on the subject, No. 1,643, of 14th idem.

8. Mr. Colquhoun in letter No. 224, of 19th October 1869, submits further explanation. He states that the rates for the doors, namely, 30 Rupees each, was liberal and sufficient to secure good material and workmanship, but that the rate of Rupees 2-8-0 per cubic foot for beams ("of which only Rupees 2-4-0 was paid") he believes to be low, and not sufficient to provide good materials and workmanship, but for the description of wood supplied "it is a fair price." Mr. Colquhoun says

(Rupees 380)" on the 4th January 1869, the beams on 30th January 1869; and that these payments were made by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay when in charge of the range.

9. The Superintending Engineer then calls upon Supervisor Muniappah Pillay, memorandum No. 1,764, of 26th October 1869, for explanation, who states that in the month of January 1869 the Contractor for the wood, a Mr. Wells, had delivered some of the wood at the work spot, and some at the foot of the hills; that the wood was "not so minutely examined "by him, as it was stored in two different places without being chiseled." He continues: "My successor, Mr. Colquhoun, instead of rejecting these useless woods, "the quality of which may have been found at the time of chiseling and making "use of them to the work, and hold the contractor who had been working under "him till after some time responsible for the delivery of good material—instead of "informing the circumstances at once to me, he forwarded me after its completion "a letter received from the Sub-Collector and asked my explanations on the sub-"ject; and I on the receipt of the above letter called on the Contractor (Mr. Wells) "to make good of them; but he, in reply, informed me that he cannot admit that "those woods which have been perforated by the attacks of insects have been "supplied by him, as they have already been used in works along with those of "others; and that this had not been intimated to him at the time of settling his "account by the 1st Range Officer when a retrenchment of Rupees 40 has also "been made by him for some deficiency in its measurement, and admits also that "he could have easily sold them and paid back the advance if this had been made "known to him at that time, and a copy of his reply has also been sent to the 1st "Range Officer.

Letter to Superintending Engineer, No. 432, of 30th October 1869.

"The original letter of Mr. Wells is also herewith forwarded for your consideration."

10. The Sub-Collector (Mr. Stuart) again addresses the Collector (No. 285, of 2nd November 1869), and states that the timber used in the jail is not "congoo "as Captain Prendergast appears to think, but a common kind of wood, taxed at 1 "Rupee per bandy load in common with all not valuable kinds, and that, though "recently tarred," he saw in one or two places marks of insects at work again, and he suggests that if the timber cannot be replaced at the expense of the Contractor, that several more coatings of tar would be advisable.

11. Another reference is made by the Superintending Engineer to Mr. Colquhoun, who, four months afterwards, namely, on the 20th March 1870, in letter No. 374, states the timber used in the construction of the Nangunery Subsidiary Jail is not of the best "description." "It is a species of jungle-wood from "the adjoining hills, and was not sufficiently seasoned when brought to work; "consequently it was rapidly attacked by insects." He states that "since the "application of tar the insects have vanished," and that "occasional applications "of tar will preserve this timber both from rot and insects, and that there will be "no necessity, for some years at least, to replace it."

No. 1,947 of 17th November 1869.

12. Meanwhile Mr. Pennington, the Sub-Collector, reports unfavourably of the new Subsidiary Jail. He says, "the workmanship surpasses anything I "ever saw for badness, even in Nangu-"nery. The compound wall of raw bricks in mud had simply melted away, and "shows scarcely a sign of a brick; the roof leaks shamefully throughout, and has "considerably subsided and sunk in places; the beams are rotting away already, "the gratings are entirely unprotected so that the rain beats in freely, and the "so-called hospital is an open shed, exposed to the sun nearly all the day long. The "whole structure answers to what was required merely in outward appearance, and "I would most earnestly request that an example be made of somebody this time. "Building a house or a bridge seems to be a lost art in the sub-division."

Letter to Collector, No. 323, of 27th November 1869.

13. In the month of March 1870, Captain Prendergast reports upon the building to the Collector, No. 13, of 2nd April 1870. He states, "with reference "to the Sub-Collector's letter to you, No. 323, of the 27th November 1869, I have "the honour to remark that the Sub-Collector must go beyond the sub-division in "his disparagement of the Nangunery Subsidiary Jail, for the plan of additions was "drawn up at Madras, and the hospital shed is according to the standard plan, "precisely the same as others all over the country. This shed faces the morning "sun certainly, but it is so placed that it may give protection from the strong west-"erly winds which would cause far more discomfort to an inmate. It must be "remembered that the new compound wall was subject to a very severe trial in the "violent rains of November, as was also the roof of the building. The grated upper "windows certainly require protection, and weather-boards should be put up. The "beams give the appearance of rotting away when attacked by insects; but, after "being well tarred, no more damage has been done, and they will probably last "now for some time. Care should only be taken that after a while fresh tar is "again applied."

14. On my arrival in the Tinnevelly District, in May 1870, after assuming charge of the division, the Collector informed me that he was not satisfied with the Subsidiary Jail work at Nangunery, and requested me to report upon it. So many other works, etc., occupying my attention, I was not able to do this until last December, on the 9th and 10th of which month I examined the buildings carefully. Before passing my opinion on them, I have the honour to state, with regard to the attempt of Mr. Colquhoun to shift the blame of the bad wood-work on to Supervisor Muniappah Pillay's shoulders, that it is very clear that he, Mr. Colquhoun, accepted such wood as was handed over to him, and as the Supervisor very shrewdly says it was for Mr. Colquhoun to see that when worked up any inferior material was rejected. Mr. Colquhoun neither rejects the rotten wood nor inferior doors, nor does he make any report whatever on the subject to the Superintending Engineer until called upon to do so subsequent to the completion of the work.

15. On Mr. Colquhoun assuming charge in January, the works were at once handed over to his Contractors, "Ruthnam Moodelly and Co.," and all further payments made to them, the sum expended by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay having been Rupees 681-13-8.

16. As specimens of bad work and inferior material perhaps these buildings surpass even those executed by Mr. Colquhoun in the 1st Range, Tinnevelly, and on which reports have already been laid before Government.

17. The doors of the jail wards are exceedingly rough, the wood of which they are made is inferior, and abounds with cracks and imperfections; the iron-work is weak and flimsy, and the screws and nails by which it has been fitted are already loose. Scarcely a bolt fits, nor can a door be made to fasten securely. The roofing of palmyra rafters, single couples, flat and pantiles, has sagged owing to the weakness of the rafters and couples; the reapers are badly fixed, and the flat tiles consequently have no proper bearing. The flooring of the verandah is of wall-bricks laid flat in chunam with square bricks above; the total depth, where I had it broken up, was $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches. In the bill the charge for this flooring is made by cubic measurement, the depth being calculated at 9 inches, and the excessive rate of 8 Rupees per cubic yard allowed. Flooring of wards is of asphalte over a levelling course of brick-in-chunam laid flat. The thickness, where examined, of the asphalte was only half an inch. Roofing of verandah the same as main wards; palmyrahs thin and many-cracked and nearly severed, through careless sawing. The roof has sagged; it rests on pillars with bress-summers. The latter, as allowed in estimate, should have been 9 inches × 6 inches. Of the six one only is of this scantling, the rest vary from $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 8 inches × $3\frac{1}{2}$, 4 inches, 5 inches. Moreover, they have been fixed with their greatest breadth flat instead of perpendicular, sagging being the consequence: the wood is of the commonest kind, scarcely fit for firewood, and is being destroyed by insects and dryrot in spite of a thin coating of tar. The roof of the wards and verandah is a succession of wavy lines, owing to the sagging of the weak frame-work. The covered passage to Police guard-room is supported on pillars, with intermediate bress-summers; the wood is of the same inferior quality, and is being destroyed by rot and insects. From one of the bress-summers I noticed some of the bark had not even been planed off; the scantling of all is less than allowed for, and all the timbers are fixed wrongly, namely, with their least scantling perpendicular. In the Police guard-room two beams of 1 foot × 9 inches are wrongly fixed, and the wood is of the same inferior quality. It is coated with tar, which hides to a certain extent its defects. The roof of this room (terrace, resting on palmyra joists) leaks in several places; and the doors and windows are inferior, both as regards workmanship and material. The cooking-shed is a most miserable building; the south wall is cracked, and should be taken down. The pointing of walls is something ludicrous in appearance; the roofing, for which Rupees 20 per square is allowed, is simply disgraceful; the pan-tiles (no flat tiles provided) are too few in number, and are already falling down; the front part is supported by two weak wooden posts, charged in the bill at 3 Rupees each, whereas they are not worth more than 8 to 12 Annas. The work of latrines is very similar. For the well the high rate of Rupees 14 per cubic yard is charged for a few common quarried stones termed "cut," and the high rate of 4 Rupees per cubic yard allowed for removing $11\frac{1}{4}$ yards of rock.

The hospital-shed is a disgraceful piece of work. The roof has scarcely a straight line in it, and the walls have cracked in several places.

18. I cannot conclude this report without expressing my astonishment that the inferiority of this Jail and its out-houses, on which the expenditure has been Rupees 4,485-4-1, was not brought to the notice of Government by Captain Prendergast.

19. The rate for the wood-work charged in the bill, namely, Rupees 2-8-0 per cubic foot, is ample for the provision of good, sound timber, considering that the wood can be procured from the adjoining hills. All the other rates in the bill are liberal and good. Substantial work should have been turned out. The contrast between the sound work of the old Cutcherry (to which the jail is attached) built some years back, and the work performed by Mr. Colquhoun, is quite startling. Mr. Colquhoun's contractors have scamped their work, and he has permitted them to do so.

REFERRED to Captain Prendergast for such observations as he may have to offer.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th February 1871.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 124. From Major H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 10th February 1871.

IN returning letter No. 2,795, of the 30th January 1871, from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, I have the honour to state that my letter to the Collector, of 2nd April 1870, had reference to the general design of the Nangunery Jail and the wood-work of the roof. The Sub-Collector had complained of the hospital and grated windows, and I explained the faults in the plan, and stated my belief that the wood might last some time if tar were applied to keep off the insects. In this letter, however, I did not dispose of the matter departmentally, as my intention had been to deal with the inferior work when sending to the Collector an estimate for such renewal as might be necessary. Sub-Engineer Mr. Colquhoun was responsible for taking over bad wood when he received charge of the talook; but Supervisor Muniappah Pillay was also not free from blame in receiving such wood, for the price of the wood was all paid before it was examined carefully. The rains in November 1869 had been exceptionally severe, and I had proposed, on considering all the circumstances, to apportion the responsibility of making good the loss by bad work, that Mr. Colquhoun had done, on each item of the estimate for renewal.

2. I must acknowledge that I made no minute inspection of the building, as Major Payne has done, in measuring the scantling, the asphalte flooring, brick flooring, etc., having no suspicion that there would be any such deficiencies as he has found. I made but a hasty inspection of the place, looking principally at the wood-work of the main building. I much regret now that I did not go thoroughly into the details at the time and settle the matter, instead of leaving it to my successor; but there was then not the bad appearance that the buildings now present; the wall of the cook-room was not cracked, nor had the wood-work of the jail sagged and distorted the roof in the manner now represented by Major Payne. I

beg to state, however, that the further deterioration is but natural when the inferiority of the wood is perceived; that another monsoon had passed before the recent inspection; and I must ask the Government to take into consideration the state in which the district was after the great floods: tanks and channels were breached in all directions, the whole energy of the department was required in saving the irrigation works and revenue, and I looked on the Nangunery Jail as a work at that crisis of but insignificant importance, which would be properly left to be dealt with when there was a time of comparative leisure afterwards.

No. 125. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 8th March 1871, No. 3,121.

With reference to G. O., No. 3, dated the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward the plan, specification report and estimate of Rupees 4,420 for the Subsidiary Jail at Nangunery in the district of Tinnevelly, and to state that the construction of the building was commenced in January 1869 and completed on the 2nd July 1869.

No. 126. From Major H. L. PRENDERGAST, R. E., to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 13th March 1871.

With reference to orders No. 3, of the 1st March 1871, I have the honour to report that the only date on which I visited the Nangunery Jail while in construction was the 20th May 1869. The Jail and Hospital shed were then roofed in, the work was fresh, and the wood had not begun to give way. The first notice of its inferiority was in the Sub-Collector's letter of 20th September. After the violent rains in November, the damaged state of the Jail was reported to me; but at that time little was thought of beyond the restoration of irrigation works. I gave a hurried look at the building again in the evening of the 10th March 1870, when I noticed the failure of some of the rafters; but I did not give more than casual observation, and told the Collector, in my last letter of 2nd April, what Mr. Colquhoun stated in his report of 20th March, namely, that the wood (in general) might last for some time. I then left the matter of the renewal of the wood-work to be disposed of by my successor in office.

2. The Superintending Engineer has fully stated what passed in correspondence in his letter of 30th January 1871, No. 2,795.

No. 127. Order thereon, 8th May 1871, No. 1,261.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

In the first of the letters recorded at the head of these Proceedings Major Payne reports the result of his inspection of the Subsidiary Jail and out-houses at Nangunery in the 1st Range of the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, *8th May* 1871.

Tinnevelly District for which a sum of Rupees 4,420 was allotted during 1868-69 from the grant of five lacs sanctioned* by the Government of India for Jail buildings in this Presidency.

* G. O., No. 3,754, dated 2nd December 1868.

2. The Jail in question was commenced in January and completed and handed over for occupation in July 1869, but so early as September of the same year the wood-work was reported by the Sub-Collector to be much deteriorated through the attacks of insects. The timber employed was a description of white jungle-wood which was represented to be of inferior quality and wholly unsuited to building purposes. A coating of tar was, by the instructions of the Superintending Engineer, Captain Prendergast, applied, but without apparently effecting much good, for, in November, the Sub-Collector again considered it necessary to call attention to the state of the wood-work. The inferiority of the material used and the indifferent workmanship throughout the building were also brought to notice, the roof having shown symptoms of subsidence and the compound wall having become much damaged, owing to the raw brick-in-mud, of which it was formed, having become saturated with water during the great storm which passed over the district in November 1869.

3. Major Payne, who examined the building on the 9th and 10th December 1870, confirms these unfavourable representations of the character of the work. He describes the wood-work of the doors as being exceedingly rough and much split, the iron-work as unsubstantial and imperfectly put together, while the roofing had, he states, sagged, owing to the weakness of the rafters and couples. Deficiencies in measurement were also found to exist in the scantling and in the thickness of the asphalte and brick flooring.

4. After a careful perusal of Major Payne's report and of the explanations which on a reference made to him on the subject, the late Acting Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division has afforded, the Government are satisfied that the defects of the building are attributable in the first place to wood of an unsuitable description and in an unseasoned state having been accepted from a Contractor without, as far as can now be seen, any examination of its quality having been made, and in the second place to the work having been entrusted to Contractors over whom no control seems from one cause or another to have been exercised by the officer in charge of the range.

5. The responsibility for the first error rests primarily on Supervisor Munniappah Pillay, but as the timber delivered on the work had not been accepted by him when he gave over charge to Mr. Sub-Engineer Colquhoun, the latter, who on succeeding to the charge of the range, seems to have followed the practice he had adopted of transferring all works to the Contractors Ruthnum Moodelly and Co., and leaving them uncontrolled, must be held accountable. Timber which ought never to have been allowed in a public building was under this system permitted to be used, and inferior materials as well as bad work seems to have been readily passed.

6. Under ordinary circumstances the Government would have had to take into consideration the extent to which Mr. Colquhoun should be held personally

responsible for the loss sustained; but as the Sub-Engineer has been convicted of fraud in the Sessions Court and dismissed the service, His Excellency can only now desire that the Superintending Engineer will submit an estimate of the cost of replacing such of the wood-work as it will be necessary to remove, and for putting the buildings of the Jail generally into a complete state of repair.

7. It will here be noticed that the design of the open hospital attached to Sub-Jails is thought to be unsuitable owing to the liability of the inmates to exposure. The question of effecting such modifications in the standard plan as are calculated to afford complete protection from the weather will accordingly be considered in the Judicial Department.

8. In conclusion, the Government cannot exonerate the Acting Superintending Engineer from blame in this matter. Major Prendergast visited the building before it was completely finished in May 1869, on that occasion he should have discovered the faulty character of the timber employed. His inspection in March 1870 should also have been of a more searching and careful nature.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Judicial Department.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To Major H. L. Prendergast, R.E.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 9

Palamcottah
13th March 1871.

From Major H. L. Prendergast R.E.
To the Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir

With reference to Orders No 3 of the 1st March 1871. I have the honor to report, that the only date on which I visited the Nanganeri Jail while in construction was the 20th May 1869. The Jail and Hospital Shed were then roof'd in: the work was fresh, and the wood had not begun to give way: the first notice of its inferiority was in the Sub Collector's letter of 20th September. After the violent rains in November the damaged state of the Jail was reported to me; but at that time little was thought of, beyond the restoration of irrigation works. I gave a hurried look at the building again in the evening of the 10th March 1870, when I noticed the failure of some of the rafters, but I did not give more than casual observation, and told the Collector in my last letter of 2nd April, what Mr Colquhoun stated in his report of 20th March. viz, that the wood (in general) might last

for some time - I then left the matter of the renewal of the wood-work. to be disposed of by my successor in office -
The Superintending Engineer has fully stated what passed in correspondence, in his letter of 30th January 1871. No 2795.

I have the honor to be, Sir.
Your Most Obedt Servant
Chas L Prendergast Major
Rl Engineers

Public Works 1871 Department
[illegible]
From Major H. L. Prendergast R.E.

To the Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Dated 13 March 1871
Recd 16th do

States his proceedings with reference to the [illegible] Jail at Nanganeri.

No. 1261 - 8 May/71

Ch/126
a.c. 13 April 1871 R. 20
c. 6 April 1871 R. 72

No. 3121

Madras
8th March 1871.

From,

Lieut. Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
Acting Superintg Engineer
8th Division.

To,

Colonel C. A. Orr, R. E.
Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Sir,

With reference to G. O. No 3, dated the 1st Instant, I have the honor to forward the Plan, Specification Report & Estimate of Rupees 4,420, for the subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri in the District of Tinnevelly; & to state that the construction of the building was commenced in January 1869, and completed on the 2nd July 1869.

Enclosures 3.

I have &c.

Richd. A. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.
Acting Superintending Engineer
8th Division

Pro 1st March /71 No 3 Mis

1871 Dept
No 3121
Progs of Govt
No 1117

From,
The Ag Supg Engineer
8th Division

To,
The Secretary to Govt
D. P. W.
Madras

Dated 8th }
Received 14 } March 1871

Enclosures - 3

Forwards the Plan & Estimate &c of the Nanguneri Subsidiary Jail & gives the dates of commencement & completion of the building.

No 1261 - 8 May /71

No 125

a.c. 13 April /71 R. 20
c. 6 April 1871 - R. 12a

Abstract Estimate No. of 1868/69.

District Tinnevelly. Taluq Nanguneri.

Work — Estimate for Constructing a Subsidiary Jail and its out Houses to Nanguneri Taluq Cutcherry.

Quantity	Description of Work	Rate			Amount			Amount of each Part
1	2	3			4			5
	Jailward, Covered passage and Police Room.							
222 15/10 / 27	Cyds. of Brick in Chunam — Cd.	4	"	"	890	5	6	
30 2/3	Cyds. of Square Brick in do. — "	8	"	"	245	5	4	
720	Sq. feet of Flooring Jailwards with Asphalte per 100 Sft.	25			180	"	"	
6173	do. of Plastering do. do. per do.	2	8	"	154	5	2	
2076	do. of Roofing with Palmira rafters, reepers flat and Country tiles & Chm. borders &c. per 100 Sq feet	25	"	"	519	"	"	
336	do. of Terrace including joists &c.	24	"	"	80	10	3	
103	Cfeet of Wrought wood per Cfoot	2	8	"	257	8	"	
8	Doors with frames &c. Complete 4×7	30	"	"	240	"	"	
4	Windows with frames Iron bars with shutters &c. Complete 4×3	12	"	"	48	"	"	
8	Ventilations with do. do. 5×2	10	"	"	80	"	"	
	Opening a doorway in the old Cutcherry western wall fixing a New do.	5	"	"	5	"	"	
	Excavating foundation and Sundries				101	13	9	~~2730~~ 2802 "

	Total Brought forward							2802 " "
	Cook Room.							
$12\frac{2}{9}$	Cyds. of mudwall — C.	"	8	"	6	1	9	
$401\frac{1}{2}$	Sq. feet of Roofing with Palmirah rafters, reepers Pantiles & Chun. borders	14	"	"	56	3	4	
8	Jungle posts each 8 feet in length	2	"	"	16	"	"	
2	— do. — " — " 14 — " " in do. —	3	"	"	6	"	"	
1	Excavating foundn. mud flooring Plastering and Sundries —				5	10	11	90 " "
	Hospital Shed.							
$60\frac{1}{3}$	Cyds. of Burnt Brick in mud Cement	3	"	"	181	"	"	
$973\frac{1}{2}$	Sq. feet of Roofing with Palmirah rafters, reepers Flat & Pantiles and Chunam borders including ridge work — C.	25	"	"	243	6	"	
155	Running feet of wall plate pr. ft.	"	4	"	38	12	"	
33	— do. — " — of Tie beams C.	"	4	"	8	4	"	
	Excavating foundn. mud plastering & Sundries —				31	2	"	
3	Posts 10 feet in length — each C.	2	8	"	7	8	"	510 500 " "
	Latrine							
$27\frac{12\frac{1}{4}}{27}$	Cyds. of mudwall — C.	"	8	"	13	11	7	
$8\frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{27}$	Cyds. of Brick in Chunam — C.	4	"	"	33	"	10	
$206\frac{1}{8}$	Sq. feet of Flooring Latrine with asphalte per 100 sq. ft.	25	"	"	51	8	6	
$448\frac{1}{2}$	do. of Roofing with Palmirah rafters reepers Pantiles and Chun. borders per 100 sq. ft.	14	"	"	62 69	12	8	
6	Posts in 7 feet in length C.	2	"	"	12	"	"	
3	— do. — 13 feet in do. each C.	3	"	"	9	"	"	
	Excavating foundn. mud. Plastering and Sundries —				7 ~~6~~	12 ~~8~~	5 ~~3~~	190 ~~175~~ " " ~~191~~ " " 171
	Well							
$6\frac{1}{4}$	yds. of Soft Rock — C.	"	8	"	3	2	"	"
16	yds. of Rock — "	2	"	"	32	"	"	
$11\frac{1}{4}$	yds. of hard do. — "	4	"	"	45	"	"	350
	Carried over —							

	Brought forward Rs.				80	2	"	3589	"	"
13 2/27	Cyds. of Brick in Chunam	4	"	"	55	"	3			
	Baling water and Sundries				14	13	9	150	"	"
	Compound wall									
168 3/4	Cyds. of Raw Brick in mud @	1	"	"	168	12	"			
5.	Cyds. of Brick in Chunam "	3	8	"	17	8	"			
4860.	Sq. feet of Plastering per 100 sq. ft.	1	8	"	72	14	5			
	Removing old Compound wall				7	"	"			
	Sundries				18	13	7	285	"	"
	Superintendence							126	"	"
	Total amount of Estimate Rupees							4150	"	

Roonea pachelly — Supervisor

27 Nov. /68 Sub. Ch. of No. 5 Range Tinnevelly

Chas L Pendergast Captain R.E.

Offg. Superintending Engineer

8th Division

9/1/69

Enclosure No 9
in a letter from the
Offg Supy Engineer &
Do dated 23d January
1869 No 2869

To
The Secy to Govt
P W D

P W 12/1/69
  5

Abstract Estimate
for constructing a
Subsidiary Jail &
outhouses to Taluq
Cutcherry at Nangu-
-nerry Rs 4420

Dr I 489/69

1/2/10/60

Tinnevelly

Estimate No 36 of

Work – Estimate
of the Expense re-
-quired for Cons-
tructing a Sub-
sidiary Jail
& its out houses
to Nangunery
Taluq Cutcherry
4420

Estimate Rs 4420

17

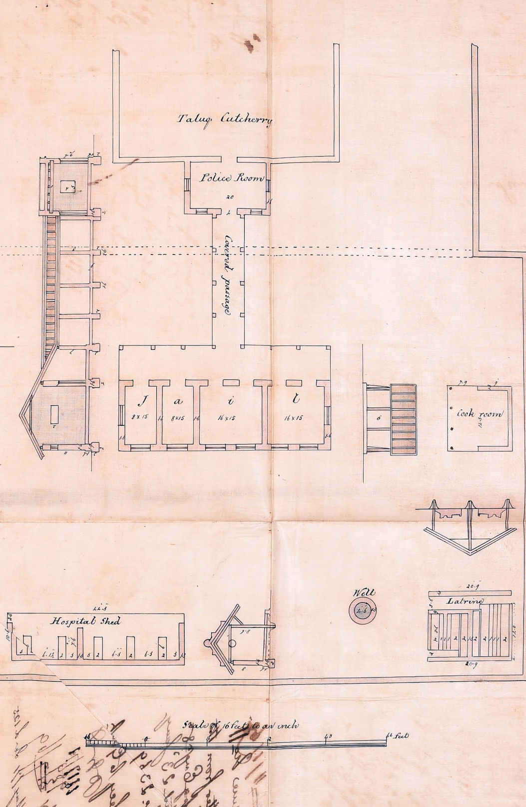
Enclosure 3 in a letter from the Superintg. Engineer 8th Dn. to the Secretary to Govt. P.W.D. dated 8th March 1871 No. 3121.

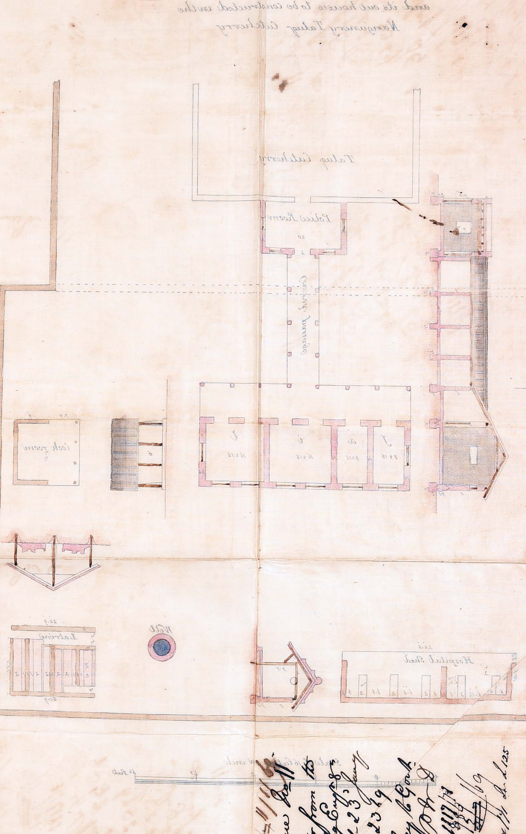
PW 11/7/71

Pros= 8th May/71 Ln. L125=

Abstract Estimate for constructing a Subsidiary Jail & outhouses to Taluq Cutcherry at Nanguneri Rs. 4420.

Nangunery Talug Cutcherry




Police Room
Hospital Shed
Cook room
Latrine
Well

Enclosure 1 in a letter from the Superintending Engineer 8th Division to the Secretary to Government P.W. D. dated 8th March 1871. No. 3121.

Plan of a Subsidi-
-ary Jail & out houses
at Nanguneri Rs
4,420

Specification Report.

23

Estimate for constructing a Subsidiary Jail in Nanguneny Talug

1. Amount of Estimate Rupees 4150 [4420] Four thousand one hundred and fifty comprising the following items.

Main Building	2802
Cook House	90
Hospital Shed	500 [510]
Jail Latrine	197 [190]
Sinking a well	150
Compound wall	285
Superintendance	126
	[4153]
Total of Estimate Rs.	4150
[for the difference between Chunam & Clay[?] wall vide G.O. No. 3971 19-12-68]	[267]
	[4420]

2. The Building is to be raised on a Basement 1½ feet in height above foundations which are to be sunk 2 feet on rock. The principal walls are to be 11 feet high and the Verandah pillars 7 feet of Brick in Chunam.

3. The Building is to contain

4

4 rooms, Viz;

2 Rooms 16 feet long by 15 feet broad.
2 — do — 8 — do — by 15 feet — do —
by front Open Verandah 9 feet broad with
a Police room 20 feet long by 12 feet broad.
joined by a covered passage of 34 feet

The Cook House and the Latrine
are to be of ~~mud wall~~ Brick in Chunam and tiled roof
with asphalte flooring for the latter,
and the Hospital Shed is to be of burnt
Brick in ~~mud~~ Chunam Cement as shewn in
the Standard Plan.

4. The Compound wall is to be 6 feet
high enclosing an area of 2100 square
feet.

5. The well is to be 4½ feet in dia-
meter and 30 feet deep built of brick
in Chunnam.

Rooneapeel Pelley Supervisor
Inch. of ...'s Range
Tinnevelly

Unknown signature
Captain R.E.
Offg. Supy. Engineer 8th D...

10/1/69

Enclosure No. 10.
in a letter from the
Offg Supg Engr 8 Dn
dated 23rd January 1869
No. 2369.

To
The Secy to Govt
P. W. D.

P. W. ~~317~~ 989/69

Report to accompany
Estimate for constructing
subsidiary Jail and
outhouses to Taluq
Cutcherry at Neyyumari
Rs 4420.

In L. 189/69

47

Enclosure 2 in a letter
from the Superintg
Engineer 8th Divn to the
Secretary to Govt P.W.D.
dated 8th March 1871
No 3121.

PW 11/7/71
Pro: 8 May /71 Su. 125

Report to accompany
Estimate for constructing
subsidiary Jail and
out houses to Talug
cutcherry at Stangimeri
Rs 4420

From

Major H. Le. Prendergast
Royal Engineers

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.
Secry to Government
P. W. Deptt.
Fort Saint George

Sir,

In returning letter 2795 of the 30th January 1871, from the Superintending Engineer 8th Division, I have the honour to state, that my letter to the Collector of 2d April 1870, had reference to the general design of the Nanganew Jail, and the wood work of the roof. The Sub Collector had complained of the Hospital, and grated windows: and, I explained the faults in the plan, and stated my

belief that the wood might last some time, if tar were applied to keep off the insects. In this letter however, I did not dispose of the matter Departmentally; as my intention had been to deal with the inferior work, when sending to the Collector an estimate for such renewal as might be necessary. Sub Engineer Mr. Colquhoun was responsible for taking over bad wood, when he received charge of the talug; but Supervisor Mooneappah Pillai, was also not free from blame, in receiving such wood - for the price of the wood was all paid, before it was examined carefully. The rains in November 1869 had been exceptionally severe, and I

31

had proposed, on considering all the circumstances, to apportion the responsibility of making good the loss by bad work, that Mr. Colquhoun had done, on each item of the estimate for renewal.

2. I must acknowledge that I made no minute inspection of the building, as Major Payne has done, in measuring the scantling, the asphalte flooring, brick flooring &c., having no suspicion, that there would be any such deficiencies, as he has found. I made but a hasty inspection of the place, looking principally at the wood-work of the main building. I much regret now that I did not go thoroughly

into the details at the time, and settle the matter: instead of leaving it to my successor; but there was then not the bad appearance, that the buildings now present; the wall of the cook room was not cracked, nor had the wood-work of the jail sagged, and distorted the roof, in the manner now represented by Major Payne. I beg to state however, that, the further deteriora=
=tion is but natural, when the inferiority of the wood is perceived; that another monsoon had passed, before the recent inspection; and I must ask the Government to take into consideration, the state in which the District was, after the great

floods

33

floods: tanks and channels were breached in all directions; the whole energy of the Department, was required in saving the irrigation works and Revenue; and I looked on the Nangaum Jail as a work, at that crisis, of but insignificant importance, which would be properly left to be dealt with, when there was a time of comparative leisure afterwards.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Madras
10th February
1871

[illegible] Major
Royal Engineers.

Public Works 1871 Department
Pro: of Govt for May
21
No. 140

From

Major H. L. Prendergast
Royal Engineers

Dated 10th February } 1871
Received 11th Do. }

Enclosure One

Returning, with explanations, the letter from the Supg: Engr: of the 8th Do. regarding the Subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri in the Tinnevelly Dist.

No. 1261 - 8 May/71.

No. 124

6 6 April/71 R. 12
~~6 22 Feby/71 R. 286~~

No 2795 Read the Letter

Palamcottah
30th January 1871

From
Major G M Payne
Ag Superintg Engineer 8th Dn

To
Colonel C. A. Orr RE
Secretary to Government D P W.

Sir,

I have the honor to report upon the subsidiary jail and outhouses at Nanguneri, 1st Range Tinnevelly, carried into execution under the supervision of Mr Sub Engineer Colquhoun.

2 This work, estimated at Rupees 4420 and sanctioned in G O No 3754 of 2nd December 1868, was completed in 1869 at a cost of Rupees 4485-4-1.

3 Advances for beams and doors were made by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay then in charge of 5th Range; but when the work was handed over to Mr Colquhoun in January 1869 on the amalgamation of the 1st & 5th Ranges no actual work had been commenced.

4 On the 20th September 1869 in letter No 233 to the Collector, Mr Stuart the Sub Collector brings to notice the inferior nature of the beams, which he describes as of white jungle wood and already perforated by the attacks of some kind of insect. He suggests that the Contractor should be made to replace them with some durable kind of timber. Mr Stuart also complains of the inferiority of the wood-work of the doors and describes the workmanship as very bad.

Docket No 2596 of 24th September 1871

5 This letter is sent to Mr Colquhoun by the Superintg Engineer for explanation.

6 Mr Colquhoun replies in letter No 275 of 2nd October 1869. He states that the beams (except 20 feet of vengay) were procured by

Supervisor Manappah Pillay, ~~that they are~~ a species of "congoo" and when brought to site were quite free from insects, but since they were wrought and put up insects attacked them, and that an application of tar had caused the insects to disappear. He admits that the doors are of "very inferior workmanship" and had warped much but throws the blame on Supervisor Moone:appah Pillay, who, he states, paid away the entire amount for them to a "wretched Carpenter", before the articles had been com:pleted and delivered.

7. The Superintg Engineer in Memo No 1642 of the 4th October 1869 calls for further information from Mr Colquhoun and addresses the Collector on the subject No 1643 of 4th idem.

8. Mr Colquhoun in letter No 224 of 19th October 1869 submits further explanation. He states that the rates for the doors viz. 30 Rupees each was liberal and sufficient to secure good material and workmanship but that the rate of 2-8-- per cubic foot for beams (of which only 2-4-- was paid) he believes to be low and not sufficient to provide good materials and workmanship but for the description of wood supplied "it is a fair price". Mr Colquhoun says it was not "Congoo" but a species of jungle wood"

and such as he would hesitate to use in a permanent building. He states that "the doors were paid for in full (Rupees 380)" on the 4 January 1869 the beams on 30 January 1869. and that these payments were made by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay when in charge of the Range.

Letter to Supg. Engineer No 432 of 30th October 1869

9. The Superintg. Engineer then calls upon Supervisor Muniappah Pillay Memo No 1764 of 26th October 1869 for explanation, who states that in the month of January 1869 the contractor for the wood, a Mr Wells had delivered some of the wood at the work spot and some at the foot of the hills. that the wood was "not so minutely examined by him as it was stored in two different places without being chisled". He continues "My successor Mr Colquhoun, instead of rejecting these useless woods, the quality "of which may have been found at the time "of chiseling and making use of them to the "work and hold the contractor who had "been working under him till after some time "responsible for the delivery of good material "instead of informing the circumstances "at once to me, he forwarded me after "its completion a letter received from the "Sub Collector and asked my explanations "on the subject, and I on the receipt of the "above letter, called on the contractor (Mr Wells)

to

"to make good of them; but he in reply
"informed me that he cannot admit that
"those woods which have been perforated
"by the attacks of insects have been supplied
"by him as they have already been used in
"works along with those of others, and that
"this had not been intimated to him
"at the time of settling his account by the
"1st Range Officer when a retrenchment of
"Rupees 40 has also been made by him for some
"deficiency in its measurement, and admits
"also that he could have easily sold them
"and paid back the advance if this had
"been made known to him at that time
"and a copy of his reply has also been
sent to the 1st Range Officer."

"The original letter of Mr Wells is
also herewith forwarded for your consideration."

10 The Sub Collector (Mr Stuart) again
addresses the Collector (No 285 of 2d November 1869,
and states that the timber used in the
jail is not "congoo as Captain Prendergast
"appears to think but a common kind of
"wood taxed at 1 Rupee per bandy load
"in common with all not valuable
"kinds and that though recently tarred"
he saw in one or two places marks of
insects at work again and he suggests
that if the timber cannot be replaced
at the expense of the contractor that
several more coatings of tar would be
advisable.

No 1947 of 17th November 1869.

11. Another reference is made by the Superintg Engineer to Mr Colquhoun who four months afterwards, viz: on the 20th March 1870 in letter No 874 states the timber used in the construction of the Nanguneri subsidiary jail is not of the best" description. It is a species of jungle wood from the adjoining hills and was not sufficiently seasoned" when brought to work, consequently it was rapidly attacked by insects". He states that "since the application of tar the insects have vanished" and that "occasional applications of tar will preserve this timber both from rot and insects and that there will be no necessity for some years at least to replace it"

Letter to Collector No 323 of 27 Novr. 1869

12. Meanwhile Mr Pennington the sub Collector reports unfavourably of the new subsidiary jail. He says "the workmanship surpasses anything I ever saw for badness even in Nanguneri. The compound wall of raw bricks in mud had simply melted away and shews scarcely a sign of a brick: the roof leaks shamefully throughout and has considerably subsided and sunk in places, the beams are rotting away already. the gratings are entirely unprotected so that the rain beats in freely and the so-called Hospital is an open shed exposed to the sun nearly all the day long. the whole structure

"answers to what was required merely in outward appearance and I would most earnestly request that an example be made of some body this time. Building a house or a Bridge seems to be a lost art in the sub Division"

13 In the month of March 1870 Captain Prendergast reports upon the building to the Collector / No 13 of 2d April 1870. He states "with reference to the Sub Collector's letter to you No 323 of the 27th November 1869 I have the honor to remark that the Sub Collector must go beyond the Sub Division in his disparagement of the Nanguneri subsidiary jail: for the plan of additions was drawn up at Madras and the Hospital shed is according to the standard plan: precisely the same as others all over the country. This shed faces the morning sun certainly: but it is so placed that it may give protection from the strong westerly winds which would cause far more discomfort to an inmate. It must be remembered that the new compound wall was subject to a very severe trial in the violent rains of November as was also the roof of the building. The grated upper windows certainly require protection and weather-boards should be put up. The beams give the appearance of rotting away when attacked by insects but after being well tarred no more

damage has been done and they will probably last now for some time. Care should only be taken that after a while fresh tar is again applied."

14. On my arrival in the Tinnevelly District in May 1870, after assuming charge of the Division, the Collector informed me that he was not satisfied with the subsidiary jail work at Nanguneri and requested me to report upon it. So many other works &c occupying my attention I was not able to do this until last December, On the 9th & 10th of which month I examined the buildings carefully. Before passing my opinion on them I have the honor to state with regard to the attempt of Mr Colquhoun to shift the blame of the bad wood work on to Supervisor Munniappah Pillay's shoulder, that it is very clear that he (Mr Colquhoun) accepted such wood as was handed over to him and as the Supervisor very shrewdly says it was for Mr Colquhoun to see that when worked up any inferior material was rejected. Mr Colquhoun neither rejects the rotten wood nor inferior doors nor does he make any report whatever on the subject to the Superintg Engineer until called upon to do so subsequent to the completion of the work.

15. On Mr Colquhoun assuming charge in January the works were at once

handed over to his contractors "Arthanam Moodely & Co" and all further payments ~~made~~ made to them, the sum expended by Supervisor Muniappah Pillay having been Rupees 687.13.8.

16. As specimens of bad work and inferior material perhaps these buildings surpass even those executed by Mr Colquhoun in the 1st Range Tinnevelly and on which reports have already been laid before Government.

17. The doors of the jail wards are exceedingly rough, the wood of which they are made is inferior and abounds with cracks and imperfections, the iron work is weak and flimsy and the screws and nails by which it has been fitted are already loose. scarcely a bolt fits, nor can a door be made to fasten securely. the roofing of palmyra rafters single couples flat and pantile has sagged owing to the weakness of the rafters & couples, the reapers are badly fixed and the flat tiles consequently have no proper bearing. the flooring of the verandah is of wall-brick laid flat in chunam with square bricks above. the total depth where I had it broken up was $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $6\frac{5}{8}$". In the bill the charge for this flooring is made by cubic measurement the depth being

calculated at 9" and the excessive rate of 8 Rupees per cubic yard allowed. Flooring of wards is of asphalte over a levelling course of brick in chunam laid flat. The thickness where examined of the asphalte was only ½ inch. Roofing of verandah the same as main wards, palmyrahs thin and many cracked and nearly severed, through careless sawing, the roof has sagged, it rests on pillars with bress-summers, the latter as allowed in estimate should have been 9"×6". Of the 6 one only is of this scantling, the rest vary from 8½" 8" × 3½ 4.5. moreover they have been fixed with their greatest breadth flat instead of perpendicular, sagging being the consequence, the wood is of the commonest kind, scarcely fit for firewood, and is being destroyed by insects & dryrot in spite of a thin coating of tar. The roof of the wards and verandah is a succession of wavy lines owing to the sagging of the weak frame work. The covered passage to Police guard room is supported on pillars, with intermediate bress-summers, the wood is of the same inferior quality, and is being destroyed by rot and insects. From one of the bress-summers I noticed some of the bark had not even been planed off. The scantling of all is less than allowed for, and all the timbers are fixed

fixed wrongly viz. with their least scantling perpendicular. In the Police Guard room two beams of 1x9" are wrongly fixed and the wood is of the same inferior quality. It is coated with tar which hides to a certain extent its defects. The roof of this room (terrace resting on palmyra joists) leaks in several places and the doors and windows are inferior both as regards workmanship and material. The cooking shed is a most miserable building; the south wall is cracked and should be taken down. The pointing of walls is something ludicrous in appearance, the roofing for which Rupees 20 per square is allowed is simply disgraceful, the pantiles (no flat tiles provided) are too few in number and are already falling down, the front part is supported by two weak wooden posts charged in the bill at 3 Rupees each, whereas they are not worth more than 8 to 12 annas. The work of latrines is very similar. For the well the high rate of Rupees 14 per cubic yard is charged for a few common quarried stones termed "cut" and the high rate of 4 Rupees per cubic yard allowed for removing 11½ yds of rock.
The Hospital shed is a disgraceful piece of work. The roof has scarcely a straight line in it and the walls have cracked in several places.

6

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18. I cannot conclude this report without expressing my astonishment that the inferiority of this jail and its outhouses on which the expenditure has been Rupees 4485-4-1 was not brought to the notice of Government by Captain Prendergast.

19. The rate for the wood work charged in the bill viz Rupees 2-8-" per cubic foot is ample for the provision of good sound timber considering that the wood can be procured from the adjoining hills. All the other rates in the bill are liberal and good, substantial work should have been turned out: the contrast between the sound work of the old Cutcherry (to which the jail is attached) built some years back and the work performed by Mr Colquhoun is quite startling. Mr Colquhoun's contractors have scamped their work and he has permitted them to do so.

I have &c

G. M. Payne Major

Ag Superintending Engineer 8th D.n

Referred to Capt. Prendergast for such observations as he may have to offer.

Arnold [illegible]
Col. R.E.

Fort St. George
7 Feb. 1870

No 123
6 6: April 71 R. 12
[illegible] 6 22 Feb 71

P.W. 1871 Dept.
Pro. of Govt for May
No 520
From the Actg Supg Engineer 8. Dn.
To the Secretary to Govt. D.P.W.

P. W. 640/71.
Pros. 8 May 1871 [illegible] 124.
Dated 30 January 1871
Received 3 February /71

Enclosure / none /

Reports on the Subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri Tinnevelly District.

Referred
No 1201-8 May /71

Public Works Department

No. 1261

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 8th May 1871.

Read the following

From the Ag Superintg Engineer 8th Dn. } (H.E. No. 2795 of 30th January/71)

From Major H. L. Prendergast Royal Engineers } " — " — " 10th Feby 1871
" — " — " No. 3121 — d/ 8th March/71

From Ag S. Engr 8th Dn. Major H L Prendergast RE. — " d/ 13 — do.

In the first of the letters recorded at the head of these Proceedings Major Payne reports the result of his inspection of the Subsidiary Jail and outhouses at Nanganerry in the 1st Range of the Tinnevelly District for which a sum of Rs 4,420 was allotted during 1868/69 from the grant of 5 lacs sanctioned by the Govt. of India for Jail Buildings in this Presidency.

Blame is laid here on the Supervisor Munia[?] Pillay and on W Colquhoun but no mention is made of the Superintending Engineer. The building must have been commenced about the 1st of January 1869. Rarely been

× G. O. No. 3754 of 2nd Decr/68.

The

2\. The Jail in question was commenced in January and completed and handed over for occupation in July 1869, but so early as September of the same year the wood work was reported by the Sub Collector to be much deteriorated through the attacks of insects. The timber employed was a description of white jungle wood which was represented to be of inferior quality and wholly unsuited to building purposes. A coating of tar was, by the instructions of the Supg Engineer, Capt: Prendergast, applied, but without apparently effecting much good, for, in November, the Sub Collector again considered

Sanctioned in Dec. 68. It is reported to have been completed in 1869 — no exact date being given. We are not told whether the acting Superintending Engineer visited the building during the process of construction and he does not give the date of his inspection after it was finished. I would call on Major Prendergast for the journal of his visits to this building and for an accurate statement of all his proceedings in respect to it. Major Prendergast acknowledges his error but pleads in extenuation his incessant occupation in connection with

considered it necessary to call attention to the state of the wood work. The inferiority of the material used and the indifferent workmanship throughout the building were also brought to notice, the roof having shown symptoms of subsidence and the compound wall having become much damaged, owing to the raw brick in mud, of which it was formed having become saturated with water during the great storm which passed over the District in November 1869.

3 N. Major Payne, who examined the building on

49

irrigational repairs. I would like to see the date of the disaster to which he refers in order to know whether he could not have visited the building during its erection before his attention became absorbed by the works under the Iumbrapoorney.

There are papers which in my opinion should be published they bear upon the question of our D.P.W. Establishment which is under revision.

I remark that the plan of the open Hospital is commented upon. I always thought that plan erroneous. I think it should be revised.

on the 9th and 10th Decr / 70,
confirms these unfavorable
representations of the charac-
-ter of the work. He des-
-cribes the wood work of
the doors as being exceedingly
rough and much split,
the iron work as un-
-substantial and imper-
-fectly put together, while
the roofing had, he states,
sagged, owing to the
weakness of the rafters
and couples. Deficiencies
in measurement were
also found to exist in
the scantling and in the
thickness of the asphalte
and brick flooring.

4. After a careful peru-
-sal of Major Payne's
report and of the explanations
which

14

which on a reference made to him on the subject, the late Acting Supg Engineer of the 8th Dn. has afforded, the Govt. are satisfied that the defects of the building are attributable in the first place to wood of an unsuitable description and in an unseasoned state having been accepted from a Contractor without, as far as can now be seen, any examination of its quality having been made, and in the second place to the work having been entrusted to Contractors over whom no control seems from one cause or another to have been

exercised

exercised by the officer in charge of the Range.

5. The responsibility for the first error rests primarily on Supervisor Innumiapah Pillay, but as the timber delivered on the work had not been accepted by him when he gave over charge to Mr. Sub Engineer Colquhoun, the latter, who on succeeding to the charge of the Range, seems to have followed the practice he had adopted of transferring all works to the Contractors Rutnum Moodelly & co. and leaving them uncontrolled, must be held accountable. Timber which ought

never

never to have been allowed in a public building was under this system permitted to be used, and inferior materials as well as bad work seems to have been readily passed.

6. Under ordinary circumstances the Govt. would have had to take into consideration the extent to which Mr Colquhoun should be held personally responsible, but pending the result of the approaching criminal prosecution of the Sub Engineer on charges of the most serious nature, His Excellency the Governor in Council will

recently instituted against

for the loss sustained but as the Sub Engr. has been convicted of fraud in the Sessions Court and dis:=missed the service, His

will defer passing final orders on the subject.

Meanwhile the Super-intending Engineer will submit an estimate of the cost of replacing such of the wood work as it will be necessary to remove and for putting the buildings of the Jail generally into a complete state of repair.

It will here be noticed that the design of the open Hospital attached to Sub Jails is thought to be unsuitable owing to the liability of the inmates to exposure. The question of effecting such modifications in the standard plan as are calculated to afford complete protection from the weather will accordingly be considered in the Judicial Departt.

Excellency can only now desire that

In conclusion the Govt cannot exonerate the acting Superintending Engineer from all blame in this matter. Major Prendergast visited the building before it was completely finished in May 1869. On that occasion he should have discovered the faulty character of the timber employed (? month). His inspection in May 1870 should also have been of a more searching & careful nature.

N.

I would add as above.

For the G. O. Controller

The Supdg Engr of the 8th Divn

" Judicial Departt

" Controller P. W. Accts

" Major H. L. Prendergast R.E.

Despd 9/5/71.

P. C. 13 April 1871 P. 201
C 6 Apl/71

Memorandum.

The information called for by His Excellency the President regarding the Supg Engineer's proceedings in connection with the construction of the Nanganneri Sub Jail in the Tinnevelly District is now circulated in the shape of an original letter from that officer, together with a plan of the hospital attached to the building which was commented upon by His Excellency.

From the further particulars now supplied it

I have perused the addition[?] for passing[?] perfectly[?] Major Prendergast

I think the papers should be ~~[illegible]~~ laid on the Editor's table.

dated 13th March 187[?]

I would not put the papers on the editor's table. It has not hitherto been the practice to print for the purpose of public comment the opinions of Govt. in very special cases.

A J.

I deprecate the publication of the papers. Major Prendergast's conduct was very lame.

it will be observed that the Jail was commenced in January and comple-ted in July 1869, and that the buildings were first inspected by the Supg Engineer on the 20th May 1869 while in course of construction but before any signs of bad workmanship were apparent. They were again visited on the 10th March 1870, when appearances of failure in the wood work of the roof were noticed by him - The bad state of the Jail was first reported to the Supg Engineer in November 1869, but the wide spread disasters to irrigational works occasioned by the Cyclone which passed over the District

worthy but which being [illegible] in [illegible] for specially [illegible] [illegible].

The so called Hospital is merely a shed - intended for the reception of infectious contagious diseases. Such rarely occur - at other times, the shed is used as a work shed.

The term pucka work should be defined as meaning well constructed work of brick & mortar kind.

J. O. L.

District on the 16th and 17th of the same month left, he explains, little leisure for him to attend to works of a less urgent character.

This is an instance in which the Government by sanctioning the use of other than the best materials in the construction of a public building afforded an opportunity for the employment of inferior kinds which, in the case of this Jail, seems to have been taken advantage of. The term "Jungle wood" covers such a variety of timber as to make it easy to substitute for those kinds which

But where does this appear? The Estimate provides for brick in chunam. whereas it is admitted that the rates were sufficient for good materials & work. JB

which are known to be
good for building purposes,
others of the worst and
most treacherous descrip-
-tion, and this no doubt
was done in erecting
the Naiganniezy Jail
as well as other buildings
under Mr. Colquhoun's
supervision.

R. C.O. 83, April 1871 R. 20th
6th April 1871 R. 12th

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Ag Superintending Engr 8th Division

60

Dated

Recd. Encl 4

G. O. 8 May 1871, No. 1261.

Nos. 123 @ 127

Subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri in the Tinnevelly District.

Passing orders on papers relating to the faulty construction of the Subsidiary Jail at Nanguneri in the Tinnevelly Dt.